

IN THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) Welding tongs ~~(1)~~ with two limbs ~~(2, 3)~~ which can be moved relative to one another, of which at least one first limb ~~(2)~~ is supported such that it can be moved relative to a drive housing ~~(10)~~ between an insertion position and a welding position ~~(4, 5)~~, ~~in which said welding position a work piece which is~~ to be welded ~~[[is]]~~ being clamped in said welding position to welding contacts ~~(6, 7)~~ on ends ~~(8, 9)~~ of the welding tong limbs ~~(2, 3)~~, said contacts being essentially inclined towards each other, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the welding tongs ~~(1)~~ comprise a particularly self-supporting moveable housing ~~(11)~~, which can move along the drive housing ~~(10)~~ and which comprises a retaining device ~~(12)~~ which supports the first welding tong limb ~~(2)~~ outside ~~[[of]]~~ the drive housing ~~(10)~~.

2. (Currently amended) Welding tongs according to Claim 1, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the retaining device ~~(12)~~ can be moved together with the first welding tong limb ~~(2)~~ between ~~[[its]]~~ said insertion and welding positions ~~(4, 5)~~.

3. (Currently amended) Welding tongs according to Claim ~~1 or 2~~, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the moveable housing ~~(11)~~ is supported for movement on the drive housing ~~(10)~~ and/or on another part of the welding tongs by at least one linear guide, in particular a sliding guide ~~(13)~~.

4. (Currently amended) Welding tongs according to ~~one of the~~ ~~aforementioned claims~~ claim 3, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the sliding guide ~~(13)~~ comprises a guide rail ~~(14, 15, 16, 17)~~ and at least one bogie ~~(18, 19, 20, 21)~~, which are moveable relative to one another.

5. (Currently amended) Welding tongs according to ~~one of the~~ ~~aforementioned claims~~ claim 4, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the guide rail ~~(14-17)~~ on the moveable housing ~~(11)~~ and the bogie ~~(18-21)~~ on the drive housing ~~(10)~~ are each particularly detachably mounted.

6. (Currently amended) Welding tongs according to ~~one of the~~ ~~aforementioned claims~~ claim 5, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the bogie ~~(18 to 21)~~ is fixed immovably on the drive housing ~~(10)~~.

7. (Currently amended) Welding tongs according to ~~one of the~~ ~~aforementioned claims~~ claim 6, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein at least two bogies are arranged spaced from one another in the displacement direction ~~(34)~~ of the guide rail ~~(14-17)~~.

8. (Currently amended) Welding tongs according to ~~one of the~~
~~aforementioned claims~~ claim 7, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the bogie
~~(18-21)~~ comprises a lubricant reservoir ~~(94)~~.

9. (Currently amended) Welding tongs according to ~~one of the~~
~~aforementioned claims~~ claim 8, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the
moveable housing ~~(11)~~ comprises two housing halves ~~(22, 23)~~, arranged
essentially symmetrically to one another and extending in the
displacement direction ~~(34)~~ and which are detachably joined together
at least at their ends by a front and/or rear face plate ~~(24, 25)~~,
wherein the front face plate is formed as a retaining device ~~(12)~~.

10. (Currently amended) Welding tongs according to ~~one of the~~
~~aforementioned claims~~ claim 9, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the
housing halves ~~(22, 23)~~ are formed in an approximate C-shape, and a
cover panel ~~(28)~~ is arranged between two mutually facing upper ends
~~(26, 27)~~ of the housing halves ~~(22, 23)~~.

11. (Currently amended) Welding tongs according to ~~one of the~~
~~aforementioned claims~~ claim 10, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein
insertion grooves ~~(29)~~ for the circumferential retention of the cover
panel ~~(28)~~ are formed in the upper ends ~~(26, 27)~~ of the housing halves
~~(22, 23)~~ and in mutually facing inner sides ~~(30, 31)~~ of the face
plates ~~(24, 25)~~.

12. (Currently amended) Welding tongs according to ~~one of the~~
~~aforementioned claims~~ claim 11, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein each

housing half ~~(22, 23)~~ comprises on its inner side ~~(32, 33)~~ two rail indentations ~~(35, 36)~~ running in the displacement direction ~~(34)~~ at least for the insertion of the lower ends ~~(37)~~ of the corresponding guide rails ~~(14-17)~~.

13. (Currently amended) Welding tongs according to ~~one of the~~ ~~aforementioned claims~~ claim 12, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the guide rails ~~(14-17)~~ are detachably mounted in the associated rail indentation ~~(35 to 36)~~, in particular by screwed joints.

14. (Currently amended) Welding tongs according to ~~one of the~~ ~~aforementioned claims~~ claim 13, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein a fixing slot formed in the height direction ~~(39)~~ of the guide rail ~~(14-17)~~ in the housing halves ~~(22, 23)~~ runs along the rail indentation ~~(35, 36)~~ and opens out into the same or is arranged adjacent to the same and a number of clamping holes ~~(40)~~ running transversely to the fixing slot ~~(38)~~ are formed in the housing halves ~~(22, 23)~~ for screwing in appropriate clamping screws ~~(41)~~.

15. (Currently amended) Welding tongs according to ~~one of the~~ ~~aforementioned claims~~ claim 14, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the rail indentation ~~(35, 36)~~ formed with a different depth comprises indentation sections ~~(42, 43)~~ adjacent to one another, wherein the first indentation section ~~(42)~~ with a shallower depth accommodates the lower end ~~(37)~~ of the guide rail ~~(14-17)~~ and a pressure pad ~~(44)~~ is arranged in the second indentation section ~~(43)~~ with a greater depth,

which in particular detachably fixes the guide rail ~~(14-17)~~ within the rail indentation ~~(35, 36)~~ relative to a rail reference edge ~~(45)~~.

16. (Currently amended) Welding tongs according to one of the aforementioned claims claim 15, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the rail reference edge ~~(45)~~ is formed by a step edge ~~(46)~~ between the two indentation sections ~~(42, 42)~~ and/or by an edge ~~(47)~~ of the rail indentation ~~(35, 36)~~ lying opposite the pressure pad relative to the guide rail ~~(14-17)~~.

17. (Currently amended) Welding tongs according to ~~one of the~~ ~~aforementioned claims~~ claim 16, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the pressure pad ~~(44)~~ is mounted detachably within the second indentation section ~~(43)~~ and for force application in particularly sideward in the direction of the rail reference edge ~~(45)~~.

18. (Currently amended) Welding tongs according to ~~one of the~~ ~~aforementioned claims~~ claim 17, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein screws and in particular set screws ~~(48)~~ are provided for the sideward application of force to the pressure pad ~~(44)~~.

19. (Currently amended) Welding tongs according to ~~one of the~~ ~~aforementioned claims~~ claim 18, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the bogie ~~(18 to 21)~~ can be pressed on a bogie reference edge ~~(49)~~ formed outside on the drive housing ~~(10)~~ and extending in the displacement direction ~~(34)~~.

20. (Currently amended) Welding tongs according to ~~one of the~~
~~aforementioned claims~~ claim 19, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein screws
and in particular set screws (50) are provided for pressing on the
bogie reference edge (49).

21. (Currently amended) Welding tongs according to ~~one of the~~
~~aforementioned claims~~ claim 20, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein a drive
device (85) within the drive housing (10) comprises a screw drive (52)
with threaded rod (53) and screw drive nut (54) as a mechanical
adjusting device (51) in the displacement direction (34), wherein the
screw drive nut (54) is arranged rotatable, but axially fixed and the
threaded rod (53) rotationally fixed, but axially moveable, the said
threaded rod (53) engaging, particularly rotationally fixed, with its
extended end (55) in an indentation (56) formed on the inner side (30)
of the front face plate (24) and being mounted detachably on the front
face plate (24).

22. (Currently amended) Welding tongs according to ~~one of the~~
~~aforementioned claims~~ claim 21, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the
first welding tong limb (2) is particularly detachably mounted on the
outer side (57) of the front face plate (24) opposite the inner side
(30).

23. (Currently amended) Welding tongs according to ~~one of the~~
~~aforementioned claims~~ claim 22, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the
cover panels (58) on the lower ends (59) of the housing halves (22,
23) protrude in the direction of the drive housing (10).

24. (Currently amended) Welding tongs according to ~~one of the~~
~~aforementioned claims~~ claim 23, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the
drive device ~~(85)~~ comprises a particularly magnetically operating
brake device ~~(60)~~.

25. (Currently amended) Welding tongs according to ~~one of the~~
~~aforementioned claims~~ claim 24, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the
bogie ~~(18 -- 21)~~ comprises circulating rolling elements ~~(61)~~ for
reducing friction.

26. (Currently amended) Welding tongs according to ~~one of the~~
~~aforementioned claims~~ claim 25, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the rear
face plate ~~(25)~~ is essentially inverse U-shaped and partially grips
around the drive housing ~~(10)~~ with its U-opening.

27. (Currently amended) Welding tongs according to ~~one of the~~
~~aforementioned claims~~ claim 26, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the
drive housing ~~(10)~~ comprises a detachable rear housing section ~~(62)~~
lying opposite the first welding tong limb ~~(2)~~ with electrical cables
~~(63)~~ and/or a control electronics unit ~~(64)~~ and/or a tachometer
generator ~~(65)~~ or similar device, the said rear housing section ~~(62)~~
being in particular arrangeable and mountable in different rotational
positions relative to the remaining drive housing ~~(10)~~.

28. (Currently amended) Welding tongs according to ~~one of the~~
~~aforementioned claims~~ claim 27, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the

drive housing ~~(10)~~ comprises a sideward protruding mounting flange ~~(66)~~ for the detachable mounting of a base plate ~~(67)~~.

29. (Currently amended) Welding tongs according to ~~one of the~~ ~~aforementioned claims~~ claim 28, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the base plate ~~(67)~~ can be directly or indirectly connected to a handling device.

30. (Currently amended) Welding tongs according to ~~one of the~~ ~~aforementioned claims~~ claim 29, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein with an indirect connection to the handling device a tongs compensating device ~~(68)~~ is arranged between the said handling device and the base plate.

31. (Currently amended) Welding tongs according to ~~one of the~~ ~~aforementioned claims~~ claim 30, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the tongs compensating device ~~(68)~~ comprises an adjustment device ~~(69)~~ for the second welding tong limb ~~(3)~~ and/or the drive housing ~~(10)~~.

32. (Currently amended) Welding tongs according to ~~one of the~~ ~~aforementioned claims~~ claim 31, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the adjustment device ~~(69)~~ comprises a displacement device ~~(70)~~ between particularly the base plate ~~(67)~~ and a base frame ~~(71)~~, which can be connected to the handling device and a drive device ~~(72)~~.

33. (Currently amended) Welding tongs according to ~~one of the~~ ~~aforementioned claims~~ claim 32, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the displacement device ~~(70)~~ comprises at least two guide rails ~~(73, 74)~~ and bogies ~~(75, 76)~~ assigned to them.

34. (Currently amended) Welding tongs according to ~~one of the~~ ~~aforementioned claims~~ claim 33, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the guide rails ~~(73, 74)~~ are detachably fixed to the base frame ~~(71)~~ and the bogies ~~(75, 76)~~ can be moved along the guide rails ~~(73, 74)~~, wherein they are detachably fixed to the base plate ~~(67)~~.

35. (Currently amended) Welding tongs according to ~~one of the~~ ~~aforementioned claims~~ claim 34, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein at least two bogies ~~(75, 76)~~ are assigned to each guide rail ~~(73, 74)~~.

36. (Currently amended) Welding tongs according to ~~one of the~~ ~~aforementioned claims~~ claim 35, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the bogies ~~(75, 76)~~ and/or the guide rails ~~(73, 74)~~ are mounted on the base plate ~~(67)~~ or respectively on the base frame ~~(71)~~ relative to the reference edges ~~(77, 78)~~.

37. (Currently amended) Welding tongs according to ~~one of the~~ ~~aforementioned claims~~ claim 36, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the second welding tong limb ~~(3)~~ is detachably mounted at its mounting end ~~(80)~~ on an underside ~~(79)~~ of the base plate ~~(67)~~ facing away from the drive housing ~~(10)~~.

38. (Currently amended) Welding tongs according to ~~one of the~~ ~~aforementioned claims~~ claim 37, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the drive housing ~~(10)~~ with the moveable housing ~~(11)~~ in place, the base plate ~~(67)~~, the tongs compensating device ~~(68)~~ and the base frame ~~(71)~~ are arranged essentially one above the other and exhibit essentially

the same dimensions in the displacement direction ~~(34)~~ and / or in the direction transverse to the displacement direction.

39. (Currently amended) Welding tongs according to ~~one of the~~ ~~aforementioned claims~~ claim 38, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein a bellows ~~(81)~~ of the drive device ~~(85)~~ is detachably mounted with one end ~~(82)~~ on the inner side ~~(30)~~ of the front face plate ~~(24)~~ and its other end ~~(83)~~ particularly on a shoulder ~~(84)~~ within the drive housing ~~(10)~~.

40. (Currently amended) Welding tongs according to ~~one of the~~ ~~aforementioned claims~~ claim 39, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein a positively locked joint is formed between the face plates ~~(24, 25)~~ and the housing halves ~~(22, 23)~~ and/or between the base plate ~~(65)~~ and drive housing ~~(10)~~ or moveable housing ~~(11)~~, in particular by locating pins, feather keys, film with hard particles or similar components.